



UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE
National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration
NATIONAL MARINE FISHERIES SERVICE
Silver Spring, MD 20910

**REMINDER: REGISTER YOUR HIGHLY MIGRATORY SPECIES
TOURNAMENTS FOR 2011!**

The National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS) reminds tournament operators to register their Atlantic highly migratory species (HMS) tournaments for 2011. This includes tournaments occurring on the U.S. East Coast, in the Gulf of Mexico, and in the U.S. Caribbean. HMS tournament registration facilitates the collection of important recreational catch and effort information which is used to analyze the impacts of potential fishery management actions, assess the status of Atlantic HMS, and to assist the United States in complying with international fishery management obligations. Federal regulations require that all tournaments awarding points or prizes for Atlantic HMS, including tunas, sharks, swordfish, and/or billfish, register with NMFS at least **four weeks prior to the start of the fishing tournament.**

Several tournaments have already registered for 2011. **If you have not yet registered your 2011 HMS tournament(s) with NMFS' HMS Management Division, please do so by following these instructions:**

- Complete the enclosed registration form. Additional forms may be obtained at either www.nmfs.noaa.gov/sfa/hms or www.hmspermits.gov or by calling the HMS Management Division's St. Petersburg, FL office at (727) 824-5399.
- Fax, e-mail, or mail the completed form to the HMS Management Division in St. Petersburg, FL, at the contact information below. When completing the registration form, please write legibly and specify the name of the tournament operator.

Fax: 727-824-5398

E-mail: HMStournamentregistry@noaa.gov

Mail: NMFS - HMS Management Division
263 13th Avenue South
Saint Petersburg, FL 33701

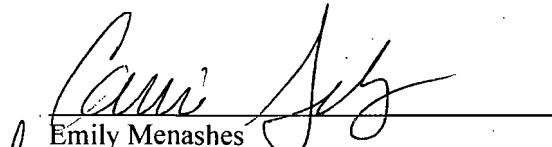
Upon receipt of a completed registration form, the HMS Management Division will provide the operator with a tournament registration number, which should be retained for the remainder of the fishing year. Beginning in 2011, NMFS will post tournament information, such as tournament name, date(s), city, state, and target species, for public viewing at www.nmfs.noaa.gov/sfa/hms. If you notice any needed corrections to the web information, please call the phone number below.

If selected for reporting tournament results, operators will be contacted by NMFS' Southeast Fisheries Science Center in Miami, FL. HMS fisheries educational materials, including instructional DVDs for rigging natural baits with circle hooks, may be requested by calling the phone number below.



NMFS reminds Atlantic billfish tournament operators about the requirement for participants to use non-offset circle hooks when using natural bait or a natural bait/artificial lure combination. J-hooks may only be used with artificial lures.

Finally, NMFS urges operators to remind tournament participants of HMS permit requirements. For more information about HMS permits, please log on to www.hmspermits.gov or call the HMS Management Division's St. Petersburg, FL office at (727) 824-5399. Thank you, in advance, for registering your 2011 HMS tournament(s).


Emily Menashes
Acting Director, Office of Sustainable Fisheries

DEC 09 2010

Date

SIGN UP FOR ATLANTIC HMS NEWS

-- An electronic newsletter informing you of the latest HMS-related actions --

<http://www.nmfs.noaa.gov/sfa/hms/newslist/>